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Pages including this cover page : 21

Message :

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Subject : patent description

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TO:	Piers Kidd	FROM:	John Fraser
COMPANY:	Marks & Clark	DATE:	9/6/00
FAX NUMBER:	(020) 7404 4910	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	20
RE:	patent description	ACTION:	please comment

**NOTES/COMMENTS:**

Piers,

I attach the patent description as discussed.

Points to note:

- We wanted to avoid narrowing down the delivery platform (internet, PC, interactive TV etc.). I hope it's ok to leave it open like that.
- We wanted to suggest the use for private social groups, while not restricting other uses, e.g. for individuals.
- We swithered over claiming the set of event types (Table 1) as part of the invention. We decided not to.
- We are very close to it: probably too close to judge the clarity of description. We welcome your views, especially with respect to understanding which bits are intended for automation.
- We have not conducted a search for references.

I look forward to your comments. If you are faxing back, it's probably best to fax to Liz at (0131) 228 0287.

One of us will call you to confirm our instructions for patent submission.

Best regards,

John

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## **PATENT DESCRIPTION**

*a method and system for archiving and browsing a group's  
multimedia items*

**by John Fraser  
Version 0.3  
9 Jun 2000**

## PATENT DESCRIPTION

VERSION 0.3

9 JUN 2000

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## Inventors

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## Applicants

6S Ltd, Scotland

## Abstract

Described herein is a system for storing and retrieving media items that comprise the group archive of a private group of individuals. When items are stored, an index is created which:

- associates people, time and events with each item;
- identifies which items constitute "high points";
- identifies trails of items that are of special significance when linked in a particular order

Items can then be retrieved by medium type, by particular associations, as predefined trails, as high points or as serendipitous nostalgic sequences.

## Agent

Piers Kidd, Marks and Clark, London, England.

## US references

none

## Claims

We claim:

1. A method of storing and retrieving digital media items. The stored items constitute a group or personal archive. The method comprises the following steps:
  - 1.1. ~~accessing a register of people of interest, e.g. members of a group or people of importance in an individual's life~~
  - 1.2. ~~establishing a set of event types that are appropriate for users~~
  - 1.3. ~~in the case where the archive contains items in different media, designating each item's medium type (e.g. text, still image, audio clip, video clip)~~
  - 1.4. designating particular items or groups of items as *high points* in the group archive
  - 1.5. identifying sequences of items that constitute *trails* that have particular significance in the order of the sequence
  - 1.6. associating each item with:
    - zero or more people
    - zero or one date, or a period specified by its two end dates
    - zero or one event type, chosen from the set defined in step 1.2
  - 1.7. storing items
  - 1.8. in the case where the archive contains items in different media, storing the medium type, as designated in step 1.3, of each item
  - 1.9. recording items or groups of items as high points, as designated in step 1.4
  - 1.10. recording the sequences of items identified in step 1.5 as trails
  - 1.11. storing, as an index, any information (people, date and event type) associated with each item in step 1.6
  - 1.12. retrieving items based on one or a combination of:

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- items with the same medium type
  - items that have been stored as high points
  - stored trails of items
  - items associated with:
    - a particular person or particular people
    - a particular date or time period
    - a particular type of event
    - any combination of the above three (Hereinafter the combination of associations is referred to as the *focus*.)
  - an automated journey of "serendipitous nostalgia", consisting of these steps:
    - A. establishing a focus
    - B. retrieving a number of items within that focus
    - C. shifting to a related focus (e.g. same people and time period but different event type)
    - D. retrieving a number of items within the new focus
    - E. repeating steps C and D
  - selecting items at random
2. Methods as recited in claim 1, step 1.12, for retrieving items in each of the ways recited.
  3. A method for repeating or sequencing each of the retrieval methods recited in 2.
  4. An automated method and computer-readable medium for maintaining and accessing an archive, on the basis of inputs from users, using the methods in claims 1, 2 and 3.

## Background and summary

### Technical field

This invention is a system and method for archiving and retrieving multimedia items. On storing the items, appropriate indexes and sequences are established in order that retrieval of the items can be done in a way that is appropriate and natural to users, and in a novel way that cannot be achieved unless the archive is maintained in digital form.

### Background of the invention

The inventors wish to enable private groups of people or individuals to establish archives of multimedia material that reflect their activities, interests and relationships. The inventors have conceived a scheme for storing and retrieving multimedia items. The scheme is designed primarily, but not exclusively, for strong social groups, such as those formed by teenage girls. Other groups — such as families, workmates or sports teams — or even individuals might also take advantage of it.

The invention is based on observation and research into the ways that people establish group "memory" and indulge in group nostalgia.

The scheme is based on the following premises:

- There is a variety of items in different media that are part of the group's interaction and culture.
- Many of the items exist or can be translated into electronic form.
- Some of the items can be considered as "high points" in the group's interaction: special items that have particular significance because they are highly memorable.
- Ordered sequences of items can form trails that are of special significance when linked in the particular order.
- Items can be associated with any or all of these:
  - a particular member or members of the group (or, in the case of individuals, other people in their sphere of interest);
  - a particular date or time period;
  - a particular type of event.

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- People will want to review the contents of the archive based on one or a combination of:
  - items of similar medium type;
  - high points;
  - trails;
  - items of similar focus (people, time and event type);
  - a journey of serendipitous nostalgia that takes them through items of similar focus, then successively shifts to a related focus and reviews items with the new focus
  - dipping in "at random".

**Summary of the invention**

The invention is based on establishing an electronic database, storage routines and retrieval routines. Many different database packages or computer languages can be used to implement it.

It is assumed that the members of a private group work together (or an individual works independently) to identify, collect, translate or create items in different media, e.g. favourite phrases, photographs, verses of poetry, recordings of their own voices, clips from home videos, clips from their favourite music. These items collectively represent the culture of the group or individual. The items may all be in the same medium, e.g. photographs or music recordings.

They then decide which items to archive, whether they constitute high points for the group, what items go together in sequence to create trails and what the associated information is (people, time and events). These details can be created or changed at any time subsequent to their inclusion in the database.

At a later time, individuals in the group or the group as a whole will want to reminisce or review the contents of the archive. This can be done in one or a combination of the ways described in Background of the invention above.

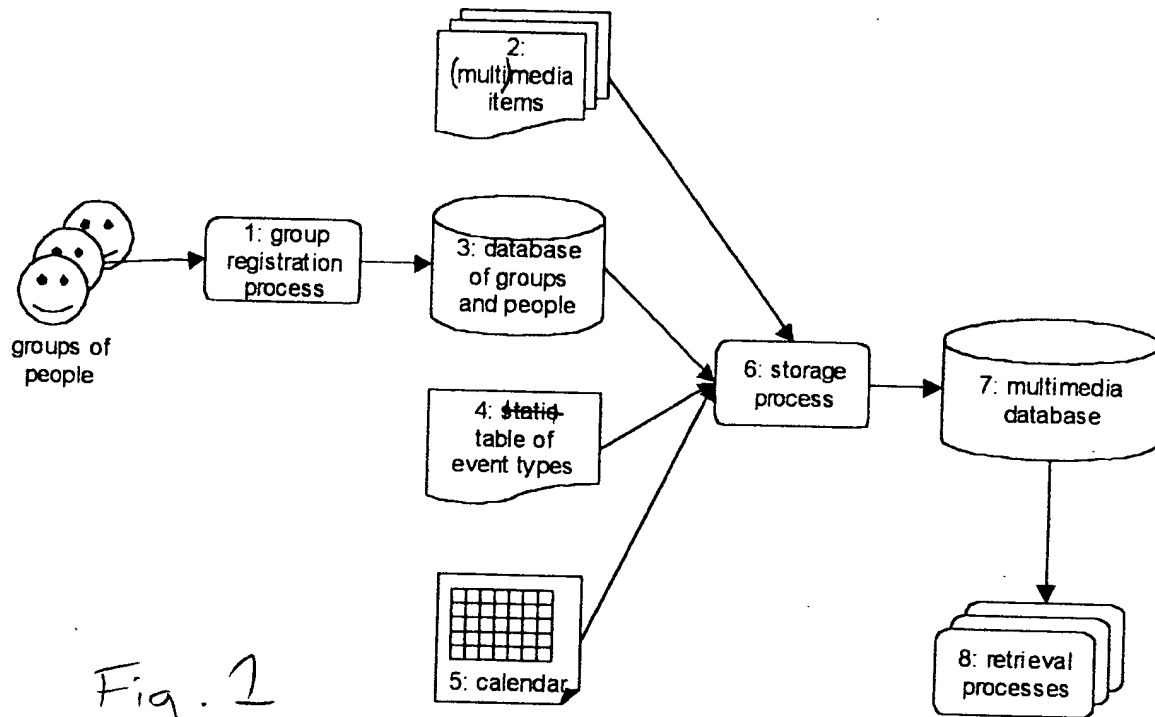
**Drawings****Figure 1: Storage and retrieval of a group's multimedia items**

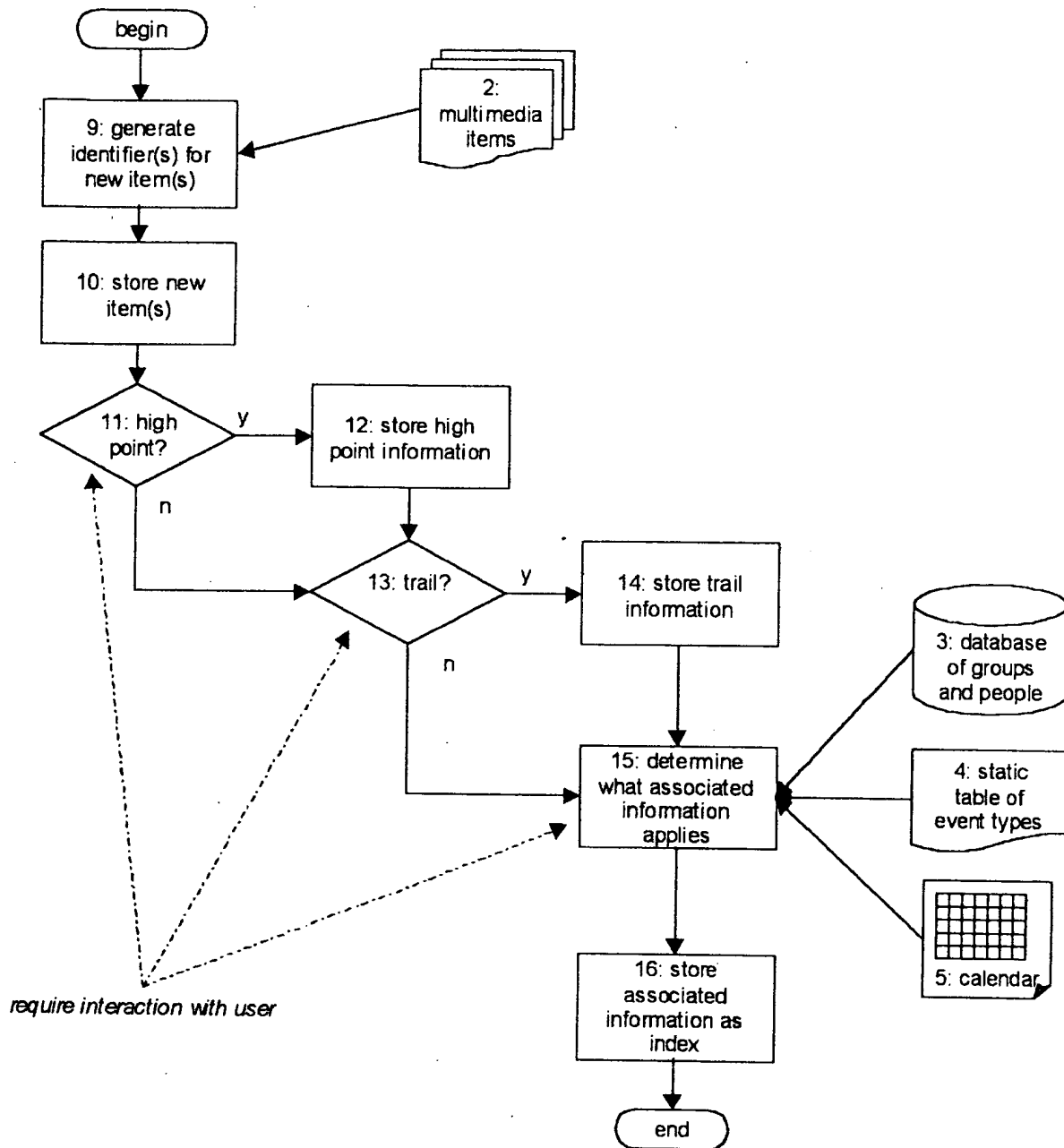
Fig. 1

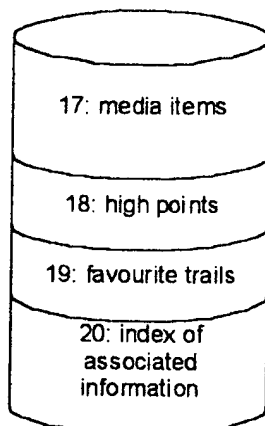
**Table 1: Event types for teenage girls**

event type	notes
party	
holiday (vacation)	terms will be different for different cultural audiences
dance	
gig	
show	
date	
school trip	
get-together	a catch-all for any other type of gathering



Figure 2: The storage process



**Figure 3: The areas of the multimedia database****Table 2: Storage of high points**

information	stored as	permitted values	necessary?	multiple values?	notes
identifier	whatever the database package allows	whatever the database package allows	y	n	
item(s)	identifier(s)	those items in the multimedia database	y	y	A high point must have at least one item.

**Table 3: Storage of trails**

information	stored as	permitted values	necessary?	multiple values?	notes
identifier	whatever the database package allows	whatever the database package allows	y	n	
first item	identifier	those items in the multimedia database	y	n	Some packages will allow multiple values to be sequenced, in which case all of the item identifiers can be stored in sequence in one field.
second item	identifier	those items in the multimedia database	y	n	A trail must have at least two items.

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information	stored as	permitted values	necessary?	multiple values?	notes
third item	identifier	those items in the multimedia database	n	n	A trail may have 3 or more items.
... further items ...	identifier	those items in the multimedia database	n	n	Typically a trail will have a maximum of about 10 items.

Table 4: The associated information in the index

information	stored as	permitted values	necessary?	multiple values?	notes
identifier	whatever the database package allows	whatever the database package allows	y	n	
medium type	string	text, sound, image, video	y	n	
people	identifier	those people stored in the database of groups and people	n	y	could be a whole group
time	date	any date within reasonable living memory	n	y (max two values)	if two values, denotes that item is associated with a time period; future dates are allowed
event type	identifier	those events in the event table	n	n	

Table 5: Some possible combinations for retrieval

medium type	high points	restrict by			notes
		trails	focus	seren-dipity	
✓	x	x	x	x	only items of particular medium type
✓	✓	x	x	x	only high points of particular medium type
x	x	✓	x	x	all trails
✓	x	✓	x	x	all trails containing items of particular type

Fuj.10

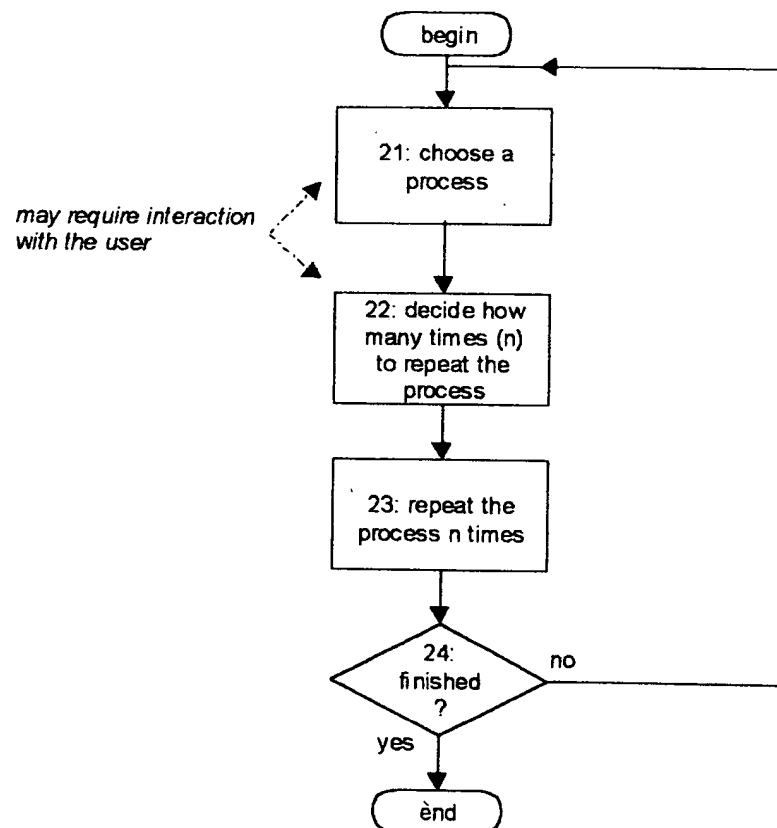
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restrict by					notes
medium type	high points	trails	focus	seren-dipity	
x	x	x	✓	x	only items associated with particular people or times or event types or any combination
x	x	✓	✓	x	only trails associated with particular people etc.
✓	x	x	x	✓	nostalgic journey through items of particular medium type
x	✓	x	x	✓	nostalgic journey through the high points
x	x	x	✓	✓	nostalgic journey restricted to particular people etc.

Figure 4: Sequencing the retrieval processes



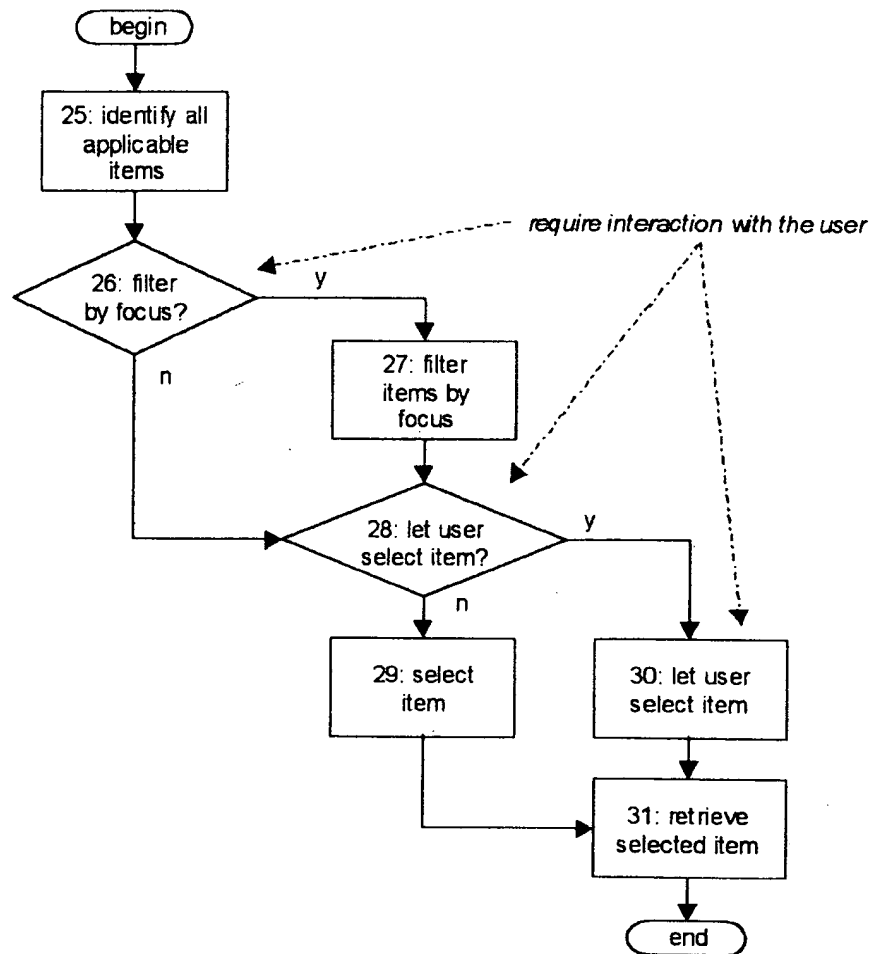
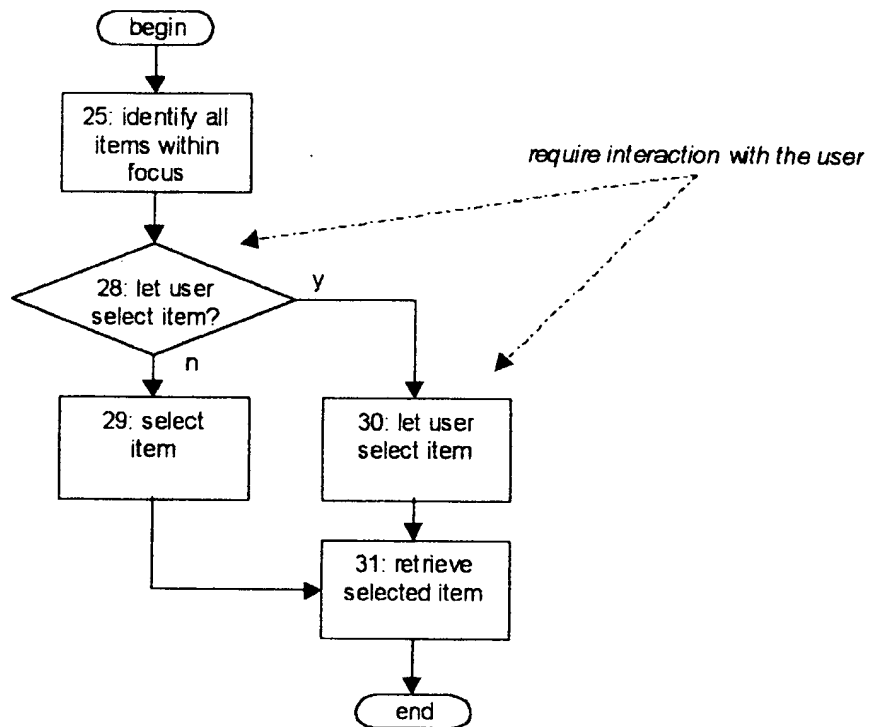
**Figure 5: The generic retrieval process**

Figure 6: Retrieval by focus



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Table 6: An example of serendipitous nostalgia

medium type	item			focus				notes
	associated information			people	time	event type	shift?	
image	Sonia, Cheryl	4 May 98	party	any	1998	party	✓	initial focus
sound	Tana	4 May 98	party					
sound	Cheryl, Caitlin	4 May 98	party					
video	Sonia	4 May 98	party					
text	Sonia	4 May 97	party	Sonia	any	party	✓	focus changes onto a person; same event type
sound	Sonia, Cheryl	3 Jan 97	party					
image	Sonia, Cheryl, Tana	14 Mar – 18 Mar 97	school trip	Sonia	spring 97	any	✓	focus changes onto a period; same person
image	Sonia	3 Apr 97 – 10 Apr 97	vacation					
text	Sonia	15 Apr 97	date					
				Sonia	any	date	✓	focus changes onto an event type; same person
								{ these 3 items are a high point (no special order)
image	Caitlin, Sonia	12 Jan 96	date					
				Caitlin	Jan 96	any	✓	focus changes onto a person and a time period
								{ these 4 items in this sequence are a trail
image	Sonia, Cheryl, Tana	30 Jan 96	school outing	Sonia, Cheryl	Jan 96	get-together	✓	this focus is narrow (people, time and event type all specified)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
image	Cheryl	4 Oct 997	dance	any	1997	any	✓	focus can be broad (people or time or event type)

Fig. 9

Figure 7: Serendipitous nostalgia

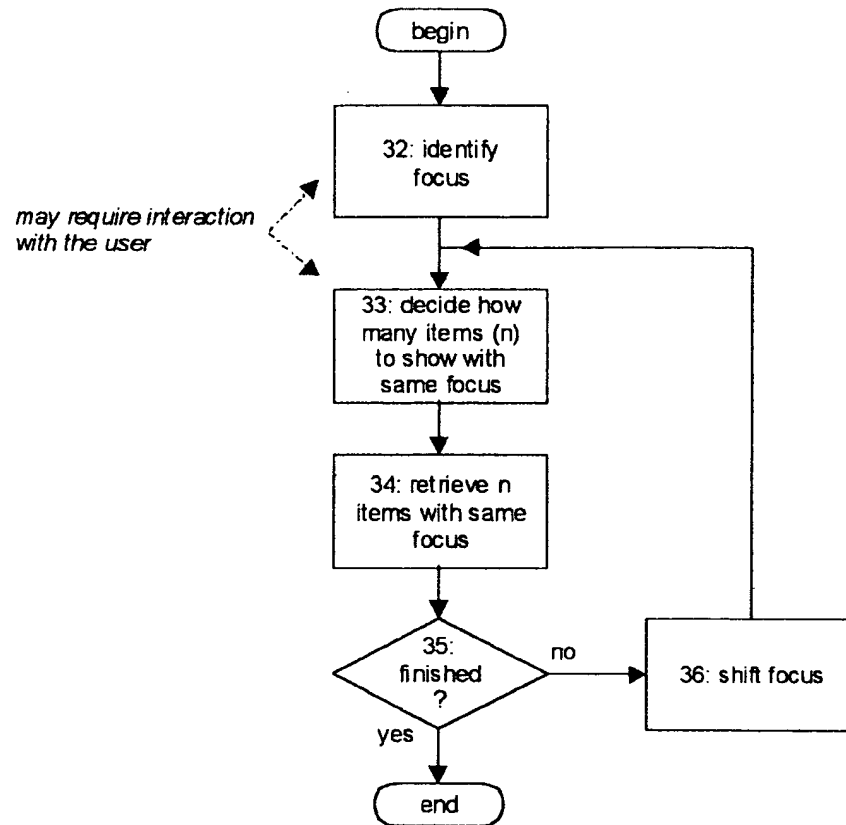


Table 7: Some possible focus shifts in serendipitous nostalgia

change	example
narrow the focus by one level	if the old focus has no restriction on time period, then include a time period in the new focus
broaden the focus by one level	if the old focus specifies an event type, let the new focus have no restriction on event type
narrow the people focus	add more people
broaden the people focus	remove some of existing people
narrow the time focus	reduce the time period from a year to a season, from a season to a month, etc.
make a small focus shift	make people focus narrower or broader by just one person
make a large focus shift	select completely new people
make a larger focus shift	select completely new people and a different event type
make the largest shift	select new people, a different time period and a different event type



**Table 8: Some strategies for shifting focus**

strategy
alternate broadening and narrowing the focus
broaden and narrow the focus at random
alternate small focus shifts and large focus shifts
small and large focus shifts at random
rotate focus shifts by people, time and event types
choose randomly between people, time and events
make shifts according to observed behaviour of different kinds of groups

## Brief description of the drawings

Figure 1 shows the main components of the method.

It is assumed in this figure that users are social groups and that the database of groups and people (label 3) already contains records of groups and the people who belong to the groups. The group registration process (label 1) is not part of the invention.

The storage process (label 6) is responsible for associating, with each item to be stored, an identifier and any other associated information (labels 3-5) for the index. It also stores details of high points and trails.

The multimedia database (label 7) contains the items themselves, the high points, the trails and the index of associated information.

The retrieval processes (label 8) allow the items to be recovered and reviewed in appropriate ways and sequences.

Table 1 gives a list of event types appropriate for groups of teenage girls.

Figure 2 is a simple summary flowchart of the storage process, showing the inputs from components in Figure 1. It also shows which of the steps require interaction with users.

Figure 3 shows the main storage areas of the multimedia database: the items themselves, the high points, the trails and the index of associated information.

Table 2 and Table 3 show the information that is stored about high points and trails.

Table 4 shows the information that is stored in the index of associated information.

Table 5 gives examples of how the various retrieval methods can be combined to restrict the applicable items for retrieval.

Figure 4 is a simple flowchart of the method for sequencing the various retrieval processes.

Figure 5 shows the generic retrieval process for the simple cases of retrieving by medium type, high points and trails. Figure 6 shows the special case of retrieving by focus. These figures both show where user interaction is required.

Table 6 shows an example of serendipitous nostalgia and Figure 7 is a simple flowchart of the process.

Table 7 shows different ways for the retrieval process to make individual shifts in focus, while Table 8 shows some strategies for making successive focus shifts.

## Detailed description of the preferred embodiment

(In this description, the label numbers refer to the labels in the preceding figures.)

## Summary

The inventors' preferred embodiment is as part of an internet based service that allows private groups to maintain and access their electronic media group archives. The archives could be single-medium or multimedia. The content comes from the media which surround them: films; music; mimicry and sayings (from actors, the group members *etc.*); TV adverts; TV programmes; books; plays; photographs from personal events like dances, school trips, holidays and parties. They would create some of the items themselves and obtain some items from online libraries and other sources.

It is envisaged that the service will be most popular in the first instance with groups of teenage girls, women and families, who will maintain and access their group archives over long periods of time.

While being very suitable for groups of teenage girls, women and families, the invention is also expected to be useful for other types of private social group, such as workmates, sports teams and even individuals. Each of these different types of groups might have a different set of event types (label 4 in Figure 1) that are relevant to them. Table 1 shows a set of event types appropriate for teenage girls.

The embodiment would entail many detailed steps, not described below but common practice in software engineering, for checking conditions such as empty lists of applicable items. These are omitted in the interests of clarity.

## Registration

Users of the internet based service register themselves and their groups, indicating who are the members of their private group. This information is stored in the register (label 3 in Figure 1). The register is not part of the invention. In the case of individuals, they would be asked to build and maintain their own register of people relevant to their archive.

Users work in their private groups, either physically in the same place or connected by remote communication means such as the internet or telephone. They create or collect, in a wide variety of ways, media items of interest (label 2 in Figure 1) for storage in an archive.

## Storage

The storage process automatically generates a unique identifier for each selected item (label 9 in Figure 2) and stores the item (label 10 in Figure 2) in the media items area (label 17 in Figure 2) of the multimedia database. The identifier is stored as part of the index of associated information (label 20 in Figure 2). The identifier is the first entry in Table 4. In addition, the medium type of the item is stored as part of the index of associated information. The type can probably be inferred from the format of the item: if not, the user is asked. The medium type is the second entry in Table 4.

In some cases it may be established that the items in the archive are all in a single medium. In this case it is not necessary to identify or store the medium type. The remainder of this description assumes a multimedia archive.

## High points

Users have the opportunity to state whether the item, either on its own or with other items, is a "high point" (label 11 in Figure 2): does it hold some special significance, e.g. the last day of the group's last year in school; the first date of the quietest member of the group. If so, the high point information is stored (label 12 in Figure 2) in the high points area of the multimedia database (label 18 in Figure 3). The format in which high points are stored is shown in Table 2.

## Trails

Users can decide that a sequence of items constitutes a special trail that links them in some meaningful way. For instance:

1. an image depicts a still scene from a film

2. a sound clip repeats a catch phrase from the film, as spoken by one of the actors
3. another sound clip repeats the catch phrase in the voice of a school teacher
4. an image depicts a caricature of the teacher

The storage process checks (label 13 in Figure 2) to see if users wish to store any trails such as that in items 1-4 above and, if so, identifies the sequence of items in the trail. This sequence is stored (label 14 in Figure 2) in the trails area of the multimedia database (label 19 in Figure 3). The format in which trails are stored is shown in Table 3.

An item that is part of a high point can also be part of a trail and *vice versa*.

### Associated information

Users are given the opportunity to indicate which, if any, information is to be associated with each stored item (label 15 in Figure 2):

- Which, if any, of the registered people (label 3 in Figure 1)?
- Which, if any, of the permitted event types (label 4 in Figure 1)?
- Which, if any, date (label 5 in Figure 1)? The date will be either a specific day or a range of days, usually in the recent past or the current day. If users decline to suggest a date, then the current date can be automatically associated.

Any associated information thus identified is then added to the index of associated information (label 20 in Figure 3). The information that can be stored in the index is shown in Table 4.

High point and trail items can have associated information.

### Building up the archive

In this way the archive is gradually built up over time, with many media items, some of them grouped as high points, some of them forming parts of trails and some of them indexed on associated information.

### Retrieval

At some points in time following storage, members of the group will wish to delve into the contents of the group archive. They might want to do this to have fun, to settle arguments, to reminisce, to experience a stream of items as a changing backdrop to other activities in the room, to tidy up or to add new items. Whatever the reason, there are different ways in which they might want to experience items.

The basic methods are:

1. experience items of the same medium type or types
2. experience high points
3. follow predefined trails
4. experience items with certain focus
5. engage in serendipitous nostalgia
6. dip in at random

The user can choose the particular method to be used at any time, or the method can be determined as in *Sequencing the retrieval methods* below.

### Focus

It is assumed that there is always a focus, determined either by the user or automatically. The focus can be:

- one or more people
- a date or a time period
- an event type
- one of the above, or a combination of two or all of the above

The focus can also be "empty", meaning that no person, time or event type has been specified. In this case, all items in the database are within focus.

***Combining the retrieval methods***

Certain combinations of the retrieval methods are feasible, in order to restrict the items that are available for retrieval. Examples are given in Table 5.

***Sequencing the retrieval methods***

The six basic methods can be repeated themselves or sequenced with each other to form a wide variety of different cumulative experiences. This can be done either under automated control or by the user's choice. Figure 4 shows a simple flow chart for achieving this. Choosing the retrieval process (label 21 in Figure 4) may be automatic or done by the user: users would usually indicate whether they want to control it themselves or leave it to the automated process. When done automatically, there is a range of possible algorithms, e.g. choose at random; favour methods that have not been used recently; favour particular methods for particular types of groups. The figure shows a decision box (label 24 in Figure 4) on whether to finish. In practice, the default would be to continue once started, until the user interrupts at any point.

***Generic retrieval***

The generic retrieval process for methods 1-3 in the above list is shown in Figure 5.

The first step is to identify all applicable items in the database (label 25 in Figure 5). In methods 1-3 respectively, this means:

1. all items of specified medium type or types
2. all items that constitute high points
3. all trails

Next, the process needs to know whether to restrict the applicable items to those that are in the current focus (label 26 in Figure 5). If so, all items outside of the focus are removed from the list of applicable items (label 27 in Figure 5).

One of the applicable items must now be selected for retrieval. This can be done either by the user selecting from the applicable list, or by automatic selection (labels 28-30 in Figure 5). Automatic selection (label 29 in Figure 5) can be done at random, or by a more sophisticated method such as giving more priority to items that have not been selected recently, giving more priority to items with less recent times associated with them, giving priority to items with more specific associated information, etc.

Finally, for methods 1-3 respectively the process retrieves (label 31 in Figure 5):

1. a single item
2. all items in the selected high point
3. all items in sequence in the selected trail

Retrieval of an item assumes some appropriate way of experiencing it, e.g. playing back an audio or video clip.

Method 4 above — retrieving items with a certain focus — is just a special case of generic retrieval, in which:

- identifying applicable items just entails using the index to identify those items within focus
- the question of filtering by focus does not apply (label 26 in Figure 5).

Figure 6 shows this special case of the retrieval process.

***Serendipitous nostalgia***

Serendipitous nostalgia resembles how one would browse through a box of old photographs or personal diaries: a start point may be chosen at random, or on the basis of a person, time (period) or event. Reviewing one or more items about that person, time or event, a trigger is found in one of the items to a different association, and a new sequence of associated items is reviewed. For example, when looking at items relating to summer 1998, the picture of one of the group brings to mind an 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party in which that person made a fool of herself. Finding the diary in which the party is described, the focus moves to a different event, also described in the diary, which took place around that time... and so the nostalgic trip continues, with apparently random-

length sequences focusing on items that are associated in one way, followed by a shift in focus and a new sequence of items.

Table 6 shows an example of a serendipitous nostalgic journey. Columns 1-4 show the sequence of retrieved items, while columns 5-7 show the current focus. Whenever the focus shifts, it is indicated in column 8. Arrows show how the new focus is generated. The journey encounters both a high point and a trail, both of which are shown in the table by a grey background.

Figure 7 shows the serendipitous nostalgia retrieval process.

The first step is to identify the current focus (label 32 in Figure 7). The user may want to change this from the existing focus.

Then the retrieval process takes over and automatically retrieves a number of items that are within focus. The number (n) can be randomly generated or acquired from the user or fixed in some other way (label 33 in Figure 7). Once the items have been retrieved (label 34 in Figure 7), the figure shows a decision box (label 35 in Figure 7) on whether to finish. In practice, the default would be to continue once started, until the user interrupts at any point.

If the decision is to continue, then the focus must be shifted automatically for subsequent retrieval (label 36 in Figure 7). There is much scope for a variety of methods for individual shifts in focus. Some possibilities are shown in Table 7. There is also much scope for a variety of strategies for making successive focus shifts over time. Some possibilities are shown in Table 8.

#### ***Random retrieval***

Users may also wish to dip into the archive "at random". This may mean literally at random, *i.e.* each item is selected with no reference whatever to the previous one. This is easy for the retrieval process to handle.

It may alternatively mean that they want to see successive items that are as different as possible from each other. In this case the retrieval process can ensure the largest "distance" between two successive items, based on the associated information of the respective items. For instance, items with non-overlapping people are further away than those with overlapping people; items with different event types are further away than those with the same event types; the difference in times gives a direct measure of item distance.

#### **Foreign references**

none

## EXHIBIT B

# MARKS & CLERK

Intellectual Property

European Patent Attorneys  
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please quote  
our reference

PBK/ZF/GBP82393

your reference

date

19 July 2000

Document #: 559437

Dear John

## RE: Proposed UK Patent Application relating to The BOX

In preparing the specification for your patent application I have come across these three United States patents, of which 5,493,677 describes a digital picture storage archive having some similarities to The BOX.

There are clearly differences between these and your own system, in particular those we discussed at our meeting. However, a lot of the technical features required to implement The BOX are disclosed in this document.

I am working to provide strong distinctions between this prior technology and your own. However, if you could find time to have a quick look at this, I would be grateful for your reaction.

Yours sincerely

Piers B Kidd  
MARKS & CLERK

Encs

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1 August 2000

Document #: 565548

**By fax & mail**  
**No: 0131 221 0287**

Dear John and Liz

**RE: Draft UK Patent Application  
for Multimedia Archiving**

I enclose a first draft specification for the storage aspect of the above invention. I apologise unreservedly for the lateness of this specification.

I shall work on the retrieval aspect tomorrow and send another draft specification then.

Please review the specification and let me have your comments. Please pay particular attention to the claims to ensure that the independent claims (which do not refer to any other claim) neither define any known systems nor can be circumvented to provide a competing system. The dependent claims define a number of fall-back positions should we fail to obtain the broadest protection for any reason. Please let me know if there are any further significant sub-features which should be included.

I have included some specific queries in square brackets within the specification. I also have the following more general query.

continued .....

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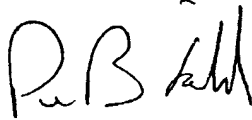
**REDACTED**

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I look forward to hearing from you regarding the draft specification. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P.B. Kidd'.

Piers B Kidd  
MARKS & CLERK

Encs

## Intellectual Property

ESTABLISHED 1887

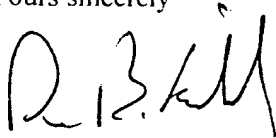
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### Consultant:

**REDACTED**

Although I will not be involved further, if you have any specific queries, clarifications etc. I would be happy to receive them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.B. Kidd'.

Piers B Kidd  
MARKS & CLERK

Encs

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=04-AUG 08:13

END=04-AUG 08:33

FILE NO. = 237

NO.	COM	ABBR/NTWK	STATION NAME/ TELEPHONE NO.	PAGES	PRG.NO.	PRC
001	INC	S	01312210287	017/023		

-MARKS&CLERK

\*\*\*\*\* -020 7404 4910 - \*\*\*\*\* -

*Fax incomplete.*

*Fax room continuing to try & send the remainder.*

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PBK/ZF

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date

3 August 2000

Document # 566649

By fax & mail

No: 0131 221 0287

Dear Liz

**RE: Draft UK Patent Application  
for Retrieval of Data Items**

Following your telephone conversation with Tony Luckhurst I now enclose the work so far on the specification and drawings relating to the retrieval side of the invention as a starting point for further discussion. I do not have a faxable copy of Figure 8 but its content should be clear enough from the description.

This is directed to the "effortless" retrieval which is not limited to storage within a database on the time/people/events indexing strategy.

Now that I have actually prepared the two drafts my thinking is that it would probably be worthwhile to combine them, at least for a first filing. You will have the opportunity to split them apart later if Patent Offices object that there is more than one invention.

Of course, if there is a psychological benefit to having more patent applications on file then we can leave them separate. In some jurisdictions, the United States springs to mind, it might be possible to protect the two ideas by way of a single application (the concept of "more than one invention" is interpreted a little differently over there). You can consider this at a later stage before the anniversary of the first filing date.

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JDC/TS/GBP82393

your reference

date

21 September 2000

Document #: 588685

Dear John

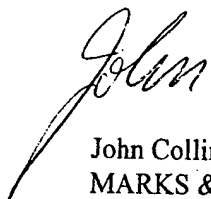
**RE: United Kingdom Patent Application No.  
in the name of 6S Limited**

I have now completed the draft patent specification and I enclose a copy for your comments.

I have tried to "flavour" the application in the right way to indicate that the archiving and retrieval process is based on episodic memory of the group. You will notice at one point in the claims I have used the term "predefined socially distinct group". Please consider whether this is appropriate.

I look forward to your comment.

Yours sincerely



John Collins  
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21 September 2000

Document #: 588686

Dear Liz

**RE: United Kingdom Patent Application No.  
in the name of 6S Limited**

I have now completed the draft patent specification and I enclose a copy for your comments.

**REDACTED**

I look forward to your comment.

Yours sincerely



John Collins  
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Collins, John

**From:** Collins, John  
**Sent:** 21 September 2000 18:44  
**To:** 'John Fraser'  
**Cc:** 'lizsharpe@ednet.co.uk'; 'liz@6sltd.com'  
**Subject:** spec

Here are the drawings and text



6s drawings.doc



6s text.doc

and letter posted today



6s letter.doc

Regards

John

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